

NUMISMA.

PUBLISHED BI MONTHLY. ED. FROSSARD, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR, IRVINGTON, N. Y.

NO. 1.

JANUARY, 1881.

VOL. 5.

THE CURIOSITY CABINET.

Published by WM. P. BROWN dealer in Postage and Revenue Stamps, Colus, etc., 145 Nassau street, New York,

J. W. HASELTINE.

1225 Chestnut street, Philadelphia Pa., dealer in Coins, Medals Curiosities, Postage Stamps, etc. Auction Sales of Coins.

J. COLVIN RANDALL

1905 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, Pa., Gold, Silver and Copper Coins. Silver Coins of any date a Specialty.

W. ELIOT WOODWARD, 258 Dudley street, Boston, Mass. American Numismatic literature a specialty. Books, Catalogues, Circulars, etc.

S. H. & H. CHAPMAN,

Importers of Ancient Greek and Roman Coins; dealers in American Coins and Medals, 2043 Tower St., Philadelphia, Pa.

CHAS. STEIGERWALT, 130 E. Klug St., Lancaster, Pa. Old and rare colus bought, sold, and exchanged. Collections purchased.

CARL W BACHMAN, Box 1115, Seneca Falls, N. Y. Collector and dealer in Colonial, U. S. and Foreign Coins, Confederate Notes and Bonds, etc. Prices for stamp.

GEO. W. COGAN & CO., (Successors to Ed. Cogan,) dealers in Coins, Medals, Numismatic Books, Paper Money, Etc. 344 Fulton St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

LYMAN H. LOW, Numismatist. Specialty of Coins, Medals, and Tokens in Copper, Brass and Nickel, Box 1008 New York City.

ED FROSSARD, Irvington, N. Y., wants the following varieties of '94 Cents, as per Dr. Maris' list. Must be fine to uncirculated condition: Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 27, 34, 35, 41, 43, and subsequent Nos.

GEO. T. MC COMBE, 198 Ontario St., Lockport, N. Y.; dealer in Coins, Medals, etc. Coins bought, sold, and exchanged. Price list free.

MASON & CO., 143 North Teuth St., Philadelphia, Pa. Publishers of Coin Collectors' Herald. Terms \$1.00 yearly. 1881 "Buying and Seiling" Coin Priced Catalogues mailed for 25c.

MASON & CO., Coin Dealers, 143 No. 10th St., Phila, Pa., buy and sell Coins, Early American Books, Autograph Letters, &c., at best market rates. Colu sales made on commission.

WANTED.—Descriptions of Medals, Tokens and Store Cards, relating to Pittsburgh and Allegheny, Pa. If for sale, state condition and price. George W. Rode, 49, 5th Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.

FOR SALE.—Vol. I, of American Journal of Numismatics, thick paper copy, 12 Nos. Rare. Price \$2.50 Address ED. FROSSARD, Irvington, N. Y.

WANTED—Early dates of American Gold Coinage in fine to uncirculated condition. Address ED. FROSSARD, Irvington, N.Y.

GASTON FEUARDENT & CO., 30 Lafayette Place, New York. Importers of Antique Coins, Gems, Bronzes, etc.

ADVERTISEMENTS

LIMITED TO THREE LINES EACH,

25CTS. FOR SINGLE INSERTION—\$1.50 PER ANNUM, INCLUDING PAPER.

Single subscriptions 5cts. per annum. Two copies and a handsome historical medal, \$1.

Address all communications to

ED. FROSSARD,
Publisher of NUMISMA, Irvington, N. Y.

S. K. HARZFIELD, NUMISMATIST,

1713, Park Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. Apply, inclosing stamp, for latest price list.

HENRY G. SAMPSON, Cor. Broadway and Fulton Sts., N. Y., Dealer in American Colus and Medals, rare stamps, Centennial combination printing presses, etc.

GEO. M. ELLIOTT, 48 CENTRAL ST., LOWELL, MASS.—Rare Colus, Continental Paper Money, Rare Books, Town Histories, and genealogies of Faullies. Priced catalogue of rare books 25cts. post paid.

BANGS & CO., 739 741 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.—Auction Sales of Books, Bronzes, Coins, etc. Part I and II Anthon's Cabinet, prluted priced catalogues for sale at \$1.50 per copy.

WANTED—Rare dollars, half dollars, quarters, dimes, half dimes, cents, half cents, pattern pieces; wanted Numismatic works, especially such as relate to American Coinage. Address, Ed. Frossard, Numismatist, Irvington, N. Y.

GEORGE H. LOVETT, 192 Broadway, N. Y., Room 13, Medalist and Engraver. Collectors of Medals invited to call. New medals, Masonic and political tokens, etc., for sale, singly or in quantities.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS

Price, \$2 per volume, in advance. JEREMIAH COLBURN, 18 Somerset street, Boston, Mass.

CANADIAN ANTIQUARIAN AND NUMISMATIC JOURNAL,

Published quarterly, at \$1.50 per annum, payable in advance. Subscriptions received by Geo. Holmes, Box 1,310, Montreal.

CHAS. H. WRIGHT, 1675 Third Ave., New York. Dealer in rare Coins and Medals. Correspondence solicited.

WM. K. MILLER, 125 1-2 Reed St., Reading, Pa. Latest Coin Priced Catalogue for 1880; 8 pages, mailed to any address for 10 cents.

A. B. CARMAN, East Richland, O. Publisher of the American Numismatic Herald, 10 cents per annum. Correspondence solicited.

M. F. BLASY, 56 9th Ave., New York, Numismatist, Dealer in rare U. S. and Foreign Colus, Medals and Tokens. Paying prices of U. S. Colus for Stamp.

C. L. STAKE, 223 South Jefferson St., Dayton, O., dealer in U. S. Coins. Duplicates for sale cheap. Parties collecting the same will find it to their interest to correspond. Enclose stamp for reply.

ANCIENT COINS.

The several series of Ancient Coins have received exhaustive treatment at the hands of eminent writers in France, Germany and Italy. In England, numismatic writers have confined themselves chiefly to the coins of their own country, though they have not entirely neglected the coinages of Greece and Rome. Witness the works of Cooke, Smyth, Akerman and Hobler, and the valuable catalogues recently published by the British Museum. But even these, when compared with the voluminous works of Eckhel, Mionnet, Cohen, Mommsen, Baron d'Ailly, Lenormant and other Continental writers, take a secondary place in numismatic literature. The book yet remains to be written in English that shall embrace the whole range of ancient numismatics, not only describing the coins themselves, but giving their full history as well.

In this country no work on ancient coins worthy of mention has ever appeared. This is explained by the fact that we depend upon importations for our supply, while European collectors, on the other hand, inhabit a country rich in the treasures of the past, whose soil is constantly yielding up hoards of coins.

If, however, but a small portion of the money spent in this country upon worthless coins, were expended on the coins of Greece and Rome, we should soon possess cabinets of interest and value. It is a positive fact for instance, that a large sum of money is wasted each year by the collectors of American cents, who derive no mental benefit whatever, from their senseless purchases.

Let us take for example two cents, one of the year 1798, the other 1799. Describing the first: Head of Goddess of Liberty to the right. LIBERTY, 1798.—Rev. ONE CENT; in a wreath, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 1-100. This coin has considerable interest for an

American. It was struck soon after the establishment of this country's independence and, as a specimen of the early coinage of this country, should be in the cabinet of every collector. It is worth from 25c. to \$5 00 according to its state of preservation.

The second cent is like the first in every respect except that it was struck one year later. Yet for this reason alone the coin is valued at \$25 to \$75.

When this fact was communicated to a French collector, he exclaimed, "Mais ces Americains sont donc fous!"

How different is the value of ancient coins. Nearly every one is a bit of petrified history or a miniature work of art. It may truly be said that the study of ancient coins not only introduces us to nearly all the celebrated persons of antiquity, but that it also teaches us many of their rites and ceremonies, and cultivates and increases our knowledge of ancient art. Where can be found more beautiful designs or more elegant workmanship than exhibited on those gems of art issued by the Mints of Sicily and Magna Graecia.

The history of art—its infancy and growth, its decline and nearly total extinction may be traced in a series of coins extending over a period of 1000 years.

Let us see what historical interest surrounds a coin of Nero, chosen at random from a number before us. A fine example may be purchased for \$2.

Obv. NERO. CLAVD. CAESAR. AVG. GERM. P. M. TR. P. IMP. P. P. Radiated head of the Emperor to the right. Rev. MAC. AVG. A circular building surmounted by a dome with lateral porticos of double rows of columns, one above the other. A flight of steps leads up to a middle archway in which stands a colossal statue leaning upon a spear or hasta.

We know that Nero was a Roman Emperor who reigned from A. D. 54 to 68. His accession to the throne was hailed with joy by

the Roman people, who thought they saw in him one who would restore to them their liberty of thought and action, of which they had been deprived by Tiberius, Caligula and Claudius. But Nero soon threw off his borrowed mask of virtue and eventually became one of Rome's greatest tyrants. We always associate his name with monstrous cruelty and sensuality. After a reign of 13 years he was deserted by his troops who placed themselves under Galba. Nero tried to escape from Rome, but being discovered he committed suicide rather than suffer the indignities he knew were preparing for him. The head of Nero on this coin bears out the facts recorded of him in history. We see the sensuous lips, the brutal forehead and massive neck, all indications of his character.

The legend on the obverse with the abbreviations filled in reads as follows: Nero Claudio Cæsar Augustus Germanicus, Pontifex Maximus, Tribunitia Potestas, Imperator, Pater Patriæ.

The Pontifex Maximus was the Chief Pontiff who superintended the state religion and its ceremonies. This office was always filled by the Emperor. The Emperors also assumed the tribunitian power and the title of "father of the country." Imperator was originally a military title conferred by the state upon an individual appointed to command an army. It was afterwards used by all the Emperors as a praenomen.

The coins of Nero present several interesting architectural types—the temple of Janus, the triumphal arch of Nero and the edifice delineated upon this coin, the Macellum Magnum or MACellum AVGusti, the great meat market which Dio says was built and consecrated by Nero. Some writers have read MAG instead of MAC, and would consider the building to be the celebrated Golden House of Nero. But on the coin before us

the C is distinct and could not be taken for a G.

When we consider that this coin is but one of a thousand equally interesting, we can easily understand the value of collections of this kind. Every ancient coin is full of interest and may be made an object of study. It is true that modern coins have some historical value, but the interest in them is lessened by the fact that they date so near to our own time.

It is well known that the commonest objects of antiquity present greater interest than rare and more beautiful productions of modern times, and this from the mere fact of their antiquity. Many will object to making coin collecting such a study. In their eyes it should be only a recreation and amusement. The majority of collectors in this country have no other object in view, but the real numismatist finds in the study and research required for the full appreciation of each coin an additional zest to his labors.

Good and reliable works are necessary for those who would collect coins in this way. We recommend a set of Dr. W. Smith's dictionaries, in six volumes. They form a numismatic library in themselves, and the student hardly requires any other guide, though he will find many valuable notes in Hobler's "Records of Roman History," and W. H. Smith's Catalogues of Roman Coins.

Greek coins have been thoroughly described in the catalogues edited by R. S. Poole and published by the British Museum. Wm. Leake, B. W. Head and Sir Chas. Fellows have also written good works on the Greek coinages. We recommend frequent visits to the Astor Library for those who would push their studies in this direction. Nearly all the important works on numismatics in every language may be found there.

R. H. L.*

NUMISMA.

ED. FROSSARD, IRVINGTON, N. Y.

Editor and Proprietor.

PRICE 10 CTS. PER COPY.

50 CTS. PER ANNUM.

ADVERTISEMENTS, LIMITED TO 3 LINES, 25c. each insertion.

TAKE NOTICE.—We wish to purchase entire collections, large or small, of United States and Colonial Coins, Pattern Pieces, Store Cards, Medals, Etc. Immediate cash advances on consignments. Address Ed. Frossard, Irvington, N. Y.

NUMISMATIC CORRESPONDENCE.

We are frequently in receipt of letters from various numismatic authorities containing matter instructive, interesting, and frequently conveying original information, but lack of space has obliged us to file the letters away without availing ourself of their contents. In this number we give a few extracts from private correspondence lately received, and may follow it up in subsequent numbers.

From Dr. E. Maris.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., }
1106 Pine Street, 12, 13, 80. }

DEAR NUMISMA:—After many years labor, I at last have the pleasure of announcing that I am going to press early in the year. I expect to put out my Historic Sketch of the Coins of New Jersey, with a plate containing specimens of the Mark Newbie Coppers, and the issues of 1786-88, together with the obverses, reverses and combinations of the latter, and a detailed description of the distinctive differences and rarity. It will be on heavy paper, (70lb.) 17 pages, large folio, and about 115 copies printed. The plate will be by Gutekunst of this city, whose reputation for photographic work of this kind I believe, is not exceeded by any Philadelphia house.

The coins, nearly all from my own cabinet, with a few from Parmelee, one from Appleton, one Crosby, &c., are among the finest known to me, of the several varieties. I enumerate some of the most striking peculiarities. Seven, without coulter; two, with date under the beam; three with head left; one, without coulter or singletree; two, Pluribus; one with seven poles; one with five poles; one 1787 over 1887—an error; one Pluribus over Pluribss; one Cæsarea over Cæsirea; one Nova Cesarea; a 1786 struck over 1787 Connecticut; two of 1787 proved to have been struck in 1788, &c., &c.

The varieties that were overstruck are designated and what they were struck over. I apprehend no instance is known of any Colonial that shows the New Jersey under another pair of dies.

Remembering thy request several years ago to be permitted to publish any announcement, I furnish the above data as a basis. A copy will await the editor's acceptance.

It will be issued at \$3.50 per copy for those with plates of 75 lbs. to the ream, and \$4.00 for those with plates of 100 lbs. to the ream. Please direct applicants to (very respectfully)

EDW'D MARIS, M. D.

S. S. Crosby, 161 Washington Street, Boston, is authorized to receive applications from New England subscribers. Plates without text will be furnished at \$1.50 and \$2.00, according to the quality of paper, and they will have 140 pictures.

From Young American, Travelling Abroad.

Since my arrival in London I have not picked up a single American coin yet. It looks to me very much as if Randall or some of your coin dealers had been over here and bought up about everything they could find. The dealer of whom I bought my 1799 cent some years ago was particularly afraid of showing me any American coins. He still has another one (99) fully as good as mine,

NUMISMATIC GOSSIP.

The Secretary of the Treasury had full proof set for 1880, also one copy each in bronze of all the National medals deposited under the corner stone of the Obelisk now being placed in position in Central Park, New York.— One of the Obelisk medals (see our advertising list) was placed in the cavity by the Masonic authorites who laid the corner stone.— M. Heilbronner, 310 West 4th Street, has issued a list of prices paid for U. S. Coins. Price 5 cents — R. W. Mercer, 147 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, O., is about publishing a Numismatic Directory for 1881. Price, \$1 per copy.— Mr. Ed. W. D. Holway, Decorah, Iowa began to publish the Numismatic Miscellany in 1878. Carefully composed and very neatly printed.— Prof. Anthon requests us to state that the 1796 half dollar which sold for \$325 in the Thurston sale, was the identical piece which had previously belonged to his cabinet. It was purchased of him through Mr. Ed. Cogan at what the professor *then* considered an enormous price, but the sequel has shown that neither Mr. Cogan nor Mr. Thurston erred in their estimate of the value of the coin.— Every dealer has, we think, a perfect right, if he chooses, to take bids at his own or any body else's sales, free of commission. It is our own honest conviction that the 10 per cent. clause has always beneficial effects, and that by paying the commisssion to a reliable and careful professional bidder the buyer often saves much more than the small commission asked, but there can be no question that each dealer has a perfect right to conduct his sales in any manner that will suit his own interests best.— Bro. Mason believes that the expression "rare thus" which has lately crept into coin catalogues, originated with Mr. S. K. Harzfeld. He is mistaken.

Scott & Co.'s catalogues, generally ascribed to Mr. David Proskey, a nice looking young man, with a level head and a big india rubber conscience, have frequently contained the expression, and if any credit of originality is due in the use of the term it belongs to Mr. David Proskey.— When you criticise fine coins, the property of your neighbor, do not stand on Bangs & Co.'s frail and cracked family cuspidor, or you will put your foot into it, as did one of our esteemed but youthful friends.— Selling good California wine at \$1.00 a gallon pays better than to get a fit of the coin publishing mania. So thinks friend Smith, of Philadelphia. We have not yet heard of a man making a fortune in the Numismatic publishing business; have you, Bro. Mason?— The Coin Journal for December, in a readable article on half dollars, states that the Orleans half dollar of 1838 is the only coin issued from a U. S. Mint bearing the Mint mark on the obverse. Has the author of this article ever seen an 1839 O. half dollar? If not, we will cheerfully send him one for examination.— Any old bachelor will shriek for a better half when handed a counterfeit 50 cent piece.— The editor of Numisma is the present owner of an original grand medaillion of Washington (size 34) by Halliday, struck in silver, and in nearly proof condition. As far as known no other specimen of this size and metal is known in tho U. S.— Up to date of going to press NUMISMA has 155 paid up subscriptions for 1881; go thou and do likewise.— It is the fashion at the present time for Parisian belles to wear bracelets made of genuine antique coins joined together by means of gold or silver links. The fashion is being introduced in New York and a coin speculator is said to make an honest penny, now and then, by buying low priced Greek and Roman silver coins at sales, and selling them to Tiffany and other fashionable jewelers.

COINS FOR SALE.

CENTENNIAL MEDALS, 1880.

958 Tarrytown Centennial Medal. Copper proof. Size 21.....\$	50	997 1813	2 50
959 Major Andre Centennial Medal. Copper proof. Size 21,	50	998 1814	2 50
960 Washington Headquarters. Tappan Centennial Medal. Copper proof. Size 21,	50	999 1817 over '13,	3 00
961 Stony Point Centennial Medal. Copper proof. Size 21	50	1000 1817	2 00
962 Saratoga Centennial Medal. Copper proof. Size 21,	1 00	1001 1818 over '17	2 50
963 Obelisk Medal. View of Obelisk. Rev. Masonic emblems. "Corner stone laid Oct. 9, 1880, N. Y." Copper proof. Size 21.....	50	1002 1818	1 50
		1003 1819 over '18	3 50
		1004 1819	2 50
		1005 1820 over '19	2 50
		1006 1820	1 50
		1007 1820 proof	5 00
		1008 1821 proof	5 00
		1009 1822 proof	5 00
		1010 1823	3 00
		1011 1824	2 50
		1012 1825	1 50
		1013 1826	1 50
		1014 1827	1 50
		1015 1828	1 50
		1016 1829	1 50
		1017 1830	1 25
		1018 1831	1 50
		1019 1832	1 50
		1020 1833	2 50
		1021 1834	1 25
		1022 1834 variety	1 25
		1023 1834 another variety	3 00
		1024 1834 brilliant proof	10 00
		1025 1835	1 50
		1026 1836	2 50
		1027 1837	2 50
		1028 1838	2 50
		1029 1839 O under bust	4 00
		1030 1840	4 00
		1031 1841	4 00
		1032 1842	2 00
		1033 1843	2 50
		1034 1844	1 50
		1035 1845	1 50
		1036 1846	1 50
		1037 1847	1 50
		1038 1848	1 00
		1039 1849	3 50
		1040 1850	2 00
		1041 1851	2 50
		1042 1851 O	2 00
		1043 1852	7 50
		1044 1855	1 00
		1045 1856	1 50
		1046 1858 proof	5 00
		1047 1867	1 00
		1048 1868	1 00
		1049 1869	1 00
		1050 1870	1 00
		1051 1871	1 00
		1052 1872	1 00
		1053 1878 Uncirculated. Much rarer than a proof	3 50
		1054 1879 Proof	1 00
		1055 Ancient Roman Aes. Head of Janus. Rev. Prow. Size 38 to 42. I have lately imported two dozen very fine specimens from a recently discovered hoard. In this condition they generally bring \$6 to \$9. at coin sales. Reduced to \$4.00.	

NOTE.—The 6 preceding beautiful medals will be forwarded express prepaid, on receipt of \$2.50.

PROOF SETS.

964 1857 Brilliant. 7 pieces.....	25 00	1018 1831	1 50
965 1859 " "	6 00	1019 1832	1 50
966 1860 " "	6 00	1020 1833	2 50
967 1861 " "	6 00	1021 1834	1 25
968 1862 " "	6 00	1022 1834 variety	1 25
969 1863 " "	6 00	1023 1834 another variety	3 00
970 1864 " 9 "	6 50	1024 1834 brilliant proof	10 00
971 1865 (lacks the dollar) 7 pieces,	3 50	1025 1835	1 50
972 1866 (lacks 1 and ½) 7 pieces.....	3 50	1026 1836	2 50
973 1867 Brilliant. 10 pieces.....	5 50	1027 1837	2 50
974 1873 (without arrows) 10 pieces.....	7 50	1028 1838	2 50
975 1874 Brilliant. 7 pieces,	4 50	1029 1839 O under bust	4 00
976 1875 " 8 "	6 00	1030 1840	4 00
977 1876 " 8 "	6 00	1031 1841	4 00
978 1877 " 8 "	8 50	1032 1842	2 00
979 1878 " 8 "	8 50	1033 1843	2 50
		1034 1844	1 50
		1035 1845	1 50
		1036 1846	1 50
		1037 1847	1 50
		1038 1848	1 00
		1039 1849	3 50
		1040 1850	2 00
		1041 1851	2 50
		1042 1851 O	2 00
		1043 1852	7 50
		1044 1855	1 00
		1045 1856	1 50
		1046 1858 proof	5 00
		1047 1867	1 00
		1048 1868	1 00
		1049 1869	1 00
		1050 1870	1 00
		1051 1871	1 00
		1052 1872	1 00
		1053 1878 Uncirculated. Much rarer than a proof	3 50
		1054 1879 Proof	1 00
		1055 Ancient Roman Aes. Head of Janus. Rev. Prow. Size 38 to 42. I have lately imported two dozen very fine specimens from a recently discovered hoard. In this condition they generally bring \$6 to \$9. at coin sales. Reduced to \$4.00.	

NOTE.—After 1805 these half dollars are all perfectly uncirculated, stars sharp, and strong well struck impressions; quite a number with proof surface. They were, in fact, selections made during the last 15 years by one of the best collectors of the country, from Mr. E. L. Cogan's renowned sales. Any collectors of half dollars can improve their sets by selections from this lot:

990 1806 Blunt 6.....	4 00
991 1806 Pointed 6.....	6 00
992 1808 A magnifieent specimen.....	7 50
993 1809	3 50
994 1810	2 50
995 1811	2 50
996 1812	2 50

but refuses to sell it for love or money. The ordinary American cents he has, marked at extremely high figures. It seems as though he labored under the impression that because a few dates happen to be rare all American cents must necessarily be worth a small fortune. * * *

N. Y., Dec. 6, 1880.

DEAR SIR:—I enclose on approval a set of the 2d variety (military bust obverse) of small "Cambridge Washington Centennial." The "naked bust" was an oversight, and after the striking of the 5 in silver, 25 each in bronzed and gilt copper, and 50 in w. m., as per original order, the obverse die was recut to *military* bust, and 25 each in gilt and w. m. ordered, but the new, or altered die smashed after striking the 25 gilt and only 5 w. m.; so there can be no more unless I should take a notion to have a new die; if so, it would be entirely different. * * * * I. F. W.

From Mr. Thomas S. Collier.

In the Sept. No. of "Numisma," you say "Lieut. Thos S. Collier, U. S. Navy, has contributed another numismatic sonnet." Now I never told you that I was a Lieutenant, and I am not (we honestly wish he were, Ed.) so that the title is not mine. More, if naval officers see it, they will think that I arrogate a rank I am not entitled to, and the result will be very annoying to me. The only title I ever claim is simply "Mr." Kindly correct this error in your next Numisma and oblige me.

THOS. S. COLLIER.

From a New England Correspondent.

I obtained most of my half dollars years ago through our spoon makers. It was then the fashion for country people to send the silver from the old stockings to them to be made up into spoons. I got quarters of 1815, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, etc., in this way, and entirely uncirculated.

Our Philadelphia Man Speaks,

PHILA., Nov. 16, 1880.

MY DEAR MR. FROSSARD!—The following explains itself: "I have examined the 1796 Half Cent very carefully and critically, and am *very decided* in my opinion, that it is a genuine piece and a *very* desirable specimen for a *choice* collection.

"I think it one of the gems of the 'Haines collection,' *second* only to the 1802 1-2 dime."

Signed: R. COULTON DAVIS.

PHILA., Nov. 13, 1880.

"I fully agree with the above"

Signed: J. COLVIN RANDALL.

It would only be an act of fairness and justice on your part to publish the above.

Truly Yours,

S. K. HARZFIELD.

[The above refers to the 1796 half cent, which sold at \$42, and was the coin distinctly mentioned as "doubted" in your last number of "Numisma."]

From W. E. Woodward, Roxbury, Mass.

It may perhaps interest you to know that I now have on hand four sales arranged as follows:

I. The Jenks Collection; Ancient and Foreign Coins; 3 to 5 days.

II. The Mercer Collection; 2 to 3 days (sold.)

III. The Hitchcock Collection; 1 or 2 days.

IV. A book sale; 2 to 3 days.

I am also in treaty for a fine and large collection, chiefly American, and several of minor importance are awaiting their turn to make up one or two more sales. I am quite bewildered by the rush, which is getting to be a bull rush, or as the boys would say, a "bully rush." * * *

From an Experienced Collector.

I am sorry that the views of your customers differ from those of coin collectors who deal with others. Never mind; "ars longa"

you know. If all these pieces—sold over two or three times a year—do not bring fancy prices, how can the Numismatic Wall Street live!! Let you and I keep cool, there are coins enough for us all, and at nearly our own prices if we "do but wait." "Love me little, love me long," is my motto. * *

From D. F. Batty, Manchester, England, author of the Copper Coinage of Great Britain.

* * * I am making what progress I can with my work; but, oh! I cannot say more to be truthful. It is a most Herculean task that I have set myself, but I like it, or could never go through with it.

CASTLETON, Vt., Dec. 14, 1880.

MR. ED. FROSSARD:

Dear Sir:—I have in my possession the plate upon which the Confederate Notes, of the denomination of twenty dollars, were printed. It was taken from the train of Jefferson Davis on his retreat from Richmond.

Will you please inform me of its probable value as a relic, and whether a purchaser can be found. Yours Truly,

JAMES CUMMINGS.

THE MINT-RESTRIKE HALF CENTS.

It appears almost incredible that a man whose name is cited as an authority on American coinage, and who handles coins from morning till night six times a week all the year round, should ignore the difference between genuine half cents in the forties, and the mint restrikes of the same dates, but such appears to be the case. Mr. W. E. Woodward, the compiler of the Mickley sale catalogue, avows himself still unable to distinguish the reverse of the restruck half cents from the reverses of the genuine half cents of the same dates. (See his remarks, page 39, sale Dec. 8, 9, 10, 1880.) To point out the differences which stamp one class of half

cents as genuine emanations of the Mint, made in the years corresponding with the date on the coin, and in the other class as coins produced at a subsequent date, with a reverse that did not exist when the genuine pieces were issued, would be on our part, an exhibition of "cheap learning" we wish to avoid, at the present time.

It is enough to state that the differences exist, have frequently been pointed out, notably in the American Journal of Numismatics, are marked, easily recognizable, and that no one offering coins at public sales to the purchasing collecting public has the right to ignore these differences. At this rate we shall soon have compilers of catalogues ignoring for instance the differences between the original Confederation cents, worth ten times their weight in gold, and Bolen's close copies of the same, or between a genuine 1796 half cent and one of Dr. Edward's copies.

As regards the 1831 and '36 half cents, their genuine reverse has the bar under the words "half cent," while the few restrikes known, (one sold in Haseltine's sale, Nov. 23, 1880) have a reverse identical to the reverse of the Mint restrikes of dates 1840-49. The 1831, '36, '40-'49 Mint restrikes were all struck after 1850, and with the reverse which is supposed to have been the reverse of the 1856 half cent—but whether 55, 56 or 57, is a matter of slight importance.

They are restrikes and no amount of even the most plausible arguing can make them pass for the genuine article.

THE COIN COLLECTORS' HERALD FOR DECEMBER.

In this number Bro. Mason devotes some space to a review of "Numisma," and in a half friendly, half irritated tone descants on our special merits and demerits. A few typ-

graphical errors in our well-filled advertising column, serve as a text for his sermon. We have endeavored to remedy these slight errors in the present issue, and hope that Bro. Mason will be pleased with the appearance of our first page generally, as well as with that of his special advertisement, which we recommend to the attention of our readers. In regard to our so-called connection with the Smith sale, Bro. Mason must remember that our friendly offices could go no further than a faithful distribution of the catalogues. If our patrons did not choose to respond to the alluring descriptions of the coins in the Smith cabinet, by sending us their orders, that was their business, not ours. Personally we are as ready to buy of Mason as of any other man, provided he will offer us the coins we want, and our purchases from him at various times are in direct proof of this. Yes, Bro. Mason, in spite of your assurances to the contrary, we were represented at your sale, and did buy a few of those priceless gems for which the Smith cabinet was so noted. One word more. Bro. Mason insists upon it that he is the oldest coin dealer in U. S., meaning, we suppose, established for the longest time, and claims to have started on his numismatic pilgrimage in 1860. Per contra Scott also claims to have donned in 1860. (See his card 1876, "sixteen years in the coin and stamp business.") It may appear difficult to decide which of the two claimants is truly and verily entitled to the title, but in view of Bro. Mason's age, of his active connection with coin interests, and of the fact, not gainsayed by any one, that he published the first Coin Paper in the U. S., we think, believe, avow, and proclaim that he is the sole, true, genuine, and only "ORIGINAL MOSES" in the coin trade, and that all other pretenders to this eminent distinction are mere knaves and humbugs.

COIN SALES.

November 15th and 16th. Anthon Cabinet. Part II. Catalogued by Prof. Charles E. Anthon; Lots 951—1978. Sold by Bangs & Co, New York. This sale was well attended by representative buyers and the beautiful coins and medals offered sold at prices, on the whole entirely satisfactory to the owner. It is to be remarked of Prof. Anthon's sales that the disposition of the coins is final and absolute, and that no matter how valuable the pieces and how low the bids, the coins are sold without reserve, hence many very rare coins on which professional buyers have no orders sell at remarkably low figures, giving opportunities of purchase rarely offered. Among the heaviest buyers Messrs. Geo. W. Cogan and H. G. Sampson seemed to be most successful in securing rare pieces, but Philadelphia, Chicago, San Francisco, Boston, and other coin centers were fully represented and bore off an occasional gem. Catalogues with printed prices can be obtained from the auctioneers at \$1.50 each.

November 19th and 20th. Collection of American Coins. 1082 lots. Catalogue by Messrs. S. H. & H. Chapman of Philadelphia. Many rare American Coins were offered in this sale, realizing in some instances only fair, in other, exceptionally good prices.

November 22d and 23d. The Numismatic Collection of D. F. Millspaugh, Esq., of Embleton, Pa., a cabinet of miscellaneous coins, chiefly American and Ancient. 1204 lots. Catalogue by J. W. Haseltine. Sold by Bangs & Co. Printed priced list can be obtained of J. W. Haseltine at 25 cents.

November 26th and 27th. Catalogue of Coins, Medals, Books, etc., comprising the collection of American Cents made by Mr. J. C. Roach, the property of Mr. J. Colvin Randall of Philadelphia. 1390 lots. Catalogue by Mr. S. K. Harzfeld of Philadelphia. This collection, besides the rare cents, con-

tained many superb silver medals, early American gold coins, gold proof sets, rare pattern pieces, etc., the whole forming an extremely attractive sale, with an aggregate total result of over \$3000. It is remarkable that while early American silver and copper coins bring continually still higher prices, the very rare early American gold should be so utterly neglected by American Collectors. The beautiful, nearly proof eagle and half eagle of 1795 brought only \$16 and 10.50 respectively, the quarter eagle of 1796, 9.20; do. of 1797, (sold in the McCoy sale for 75.25) only 7; do. 1806 (McCoy's sale 90,) 11.50, etc!! Such utter neglect on the part of collectors seems almost incomprehensible. Every collector should have a few specimens of early American gold in his cabinet. The types of the earlier issues are entirely distinct, the condition of the few specimens offered at sales generally leaves nothing to be desired, and the intrinsic value and comparative low price of the coins also should be an incentive to a more general appreciation of their value as cabinet specimens. No printed price list of this collection will be issued, but Mr. Harzfeld informs us that he is printing an addenda to the catalogue which will contain some interesting notes and corrections.

December 1. United States Copper and Silver Coins, etc.; 406 lots. Catalogue by Dr. Geo. W. Massamore. Sold by Wm. Seemuller, Baltimore, Md.

December 7. American Coins and Medals; 280 lots. Catalogue by S. H. Morgan, Esq. Sold by D. F. Henry, Pittsburgh, Pa.

December 8, 9 and 10. Catalogue of the collection of Mr. Robert W. Mercer, of Cincinnati, O., and others; 1704 lots. Catalogue by Mr. W. Elliott Woodward. Sold by Bangs & Co., New York. A few copies of this catalogue were issued with a heliotype plate, at 30 cents each. Thick paper copies with the plate, and priced, can also be obtained of Mr. Woodward at \$1.00 each.

December 16 and 17. The numismatic collection of Chas. A. Besson, Esq., of Philadelphia, Pa., and other miscellaneous coins, 1175 lots. Catalogue by Mr. J. W. Haseltine. Sold at Bangs & Co. Printed price list issued as usual; for sale by Mr. Haseltine at 25 cents.

December 15 and 16. American and Foreign Silver and Copper Coins, the collection of Mr. T. T. Bates, Traverse City; 1057 lots. Catalogue by Scott & Co. Sold by G. A. Leavitt & Co., Clinton Hall, N. Y. If the remark under head of 349 refers to S. K. Harzfeld, of Philadelphia, we are authorized to declare the statement incorrect. If to any one else, then Scott & Co. have no right to use Mr. Harzfeld's initial letters without stating that S. K. is not S. K. Harzfeld, and they owe this gentleman a public retraction for the covert slander.

COMING SALES.

ALL AT BANGS & CO.

Messrs. Sampson & Smith will have a sale January 7th.

Mr. W. E. Woodward will offer the Jenks Cabinet of Ancient Coins, etc., January 10-14; a large 5 days' sale.

Mr. S. K. Harzfeld will offer the collection of Mr. H. Rogers, a Philadelphia Banker, January 21-22.

Geo. W. Cogan & Co., will have a sale early in February.

Messrs. Haseltine, Chapman, Frossard and others will have sales, dates of which are not yet fixed.

The cabinet of the late Charles I. Bushnell is at present offered at private sale, but if no buyer presents himself at the high price asked, it is probable that it will go through the process of cataloguing and be offered in New York within the next 4 months.

Dr. Massamore will have another sale in Baltimore on 11th and 12th inst.

nd 17. The numismatic col-
A. Besson, Esq., of Phila-
other miscellaneous coins,
ogue by Mr. J. W. Hasel-
angs & Co. Printed price
al; for sale by Mr. Haseltine

nd 16. American and For-
opper Coins, the collection
es, Traverse City; 1037 lots.
ott & Co. Sold by G. A
inton Hall, N. Y. If the re-
d of 349 refers to S. K
e phia, we are authorized
ement incorrect. It to any
t & Co. ha. e no right to use
tial letters without stating
S. K. Harzfield, and they
n a public retraction for the

ING SALES.

AT BANGS & CO.

n & Smith will have a sale

ward will offer the Jenks
t Coins, etc., January 10-
sale.

eld will offer the collection
s, a Philadelphia Bunker,

& Co., will have a sale ear-

e, Chapman, Frossard and
es, dates of which are not

e late Charles I. Bushnell
at private sale, but if no
self at the high price ask-
at it will go through the
and be offered in New
et 4 months.
have another sale in
each inst.



24ColorCard Camera Gray.com

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

R